CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the Application.

Claims 1-61 (Canceled)

62. (New) A method for determining a geographic location of an Internet user, comprising:

    a. receiving at least one of an IP address, a host name, or a domain name associated with the Internet user;

    b. obtaining one or more intermediate hosts of a route that connects a source to the Internet user;

    c. storing in a first database a plurality of geographic names and a plurality of variations for each of the plurality of geographic names;

    d. determining a geographic location for the one or more intermediate hosts of the route by performing the steps of:

        i. determining a geographic naming information for the intermediate host;

        ii. comparing at least a part of the determined geographic naming information for the intermediate host to one or more of the plurality of variations of geographic names stored in the first database;

        iii. determining a geographic location of the intermediate host based on the comparison; and

    e. determining the geographic location of the Internet user using the route and the determined geographic location of the one or more intermediate hosts.

63. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein determining a geographic naming information for the intermediate host comprises determining a host name information for the intermediate host.

64. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein determining a geographic location for the one or more intermediate hosts of the route further comprises assigning a confidence level to the determined geographic location of the one or more intermediate hosts.

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65. (New) The method of claim 64, wherein determining the geographic location of the Internet user comprises determining the geographic location of the Internet user using the route, the determined geographic location of the one or more intermediate hosts, and the confidence level assigned to the determined geographic location of the one or more intermediate hosts.

66. (New) The method of claim 65, further comprising assigning a confidence level to the determined geographic location of the Internet user.

67. (New) The method of claim 66, further comprising storing the geographic location of the Internet user and the confidence level assigned to the determined geographic location of the Internet user in a second database.

68. (New) The method of claim 67, further comprising determining a geographic location of an entity that owns the IP address, host name, or domain name.

69. (New) The method of claim 67, further comprising verifying one or more of the IP address, host name, or the domain name that is associated with the Internet user.

70. (New) The method of claim 67, wherein obtaining one or more intermediate hosts of a route comprises obtaining one or more intermediate hosts of a route that connects a source to the Internet user by performing a traceroute.

71. (New) The method of claim 67, wherein determining the geographic location of the Internet user using the route, the determined geographic location of the one or more intermediate hosts, and the confidence level assigned to the determined geographic location of the one or more intermediate hosts comprises determining a city of the Internet user using the route, the determined geographic location of the one or more intermediate hosts, and the confidence level assigned to the determined geographic location of the one or more intermediate hosts.

72. (New) The method of claim 67, wherein determining the geographic location of the Internet user using the route, the determined geographic location of the one or more intermediate hosts, and the confidence level assigned to the determined geographic location of the one or more intermediate hosts comprises determining a region within a country where the Internet user is located using the route, the determined geographic location of the one or more intermediate hosts, and the confidence level assigned to the determined geographic location of the one or more intermediate hosts.

73. (New) A method for determining a geographic location of an Internet user, comprising:
   a. receiving at least one of an IP address, host name, or domain name associated with the Internet user;
   b. obtaining one or more intermediate hosts of a route that connects a source to the Internet user;
   c. storing in a first database a plurality of geographic names and a plurality of variations for each of the plurality of geographic names;
   d. determining a geographic location for the one or more intermediate hosts of the route by performing the steps of:
      i. determining a geographic naming information for the intermediate host;
      ii. comparing at least a part of the determined geographic naming information to one or more of the plurality of variations of geographic names stored in the first database;
         1. if the comparison results in a match between the determined geographic naming information and at least one variation of a first geographic name stored in the first database, determining the geographic location of the intermediate host using the first geographic name;
         2. if the comparison does not result in a match between the determined geographic naming information and at least one variation of a first geographic name stored in the first database, determining the geographic location of the intermediate host using

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one or more other intermediate hosts of the route;

    e. determining the geographic location of the Internet user using the route and the determined geographic location of the one or more intermediate hosts.

74. (New) The method of claim 73, further comprising assigning a confidence level to the determined geographic location of the one or more intermediate hosts.

75. (New) The method of claim 74, wherein determining the geographic location of the Internet user comprises determining the geographic location of the Internet user using the route, the determined geographic location of the one or more intermediate hosts, and the confidence level assigned to the determined geographic location of the one or more intermediate hosts.

76. (New) The method of claim 75, further comprising assigning a confidence level to the determined geographic location of the Internet user.

77. (New) The method of claim 76, further comprising storing the geographic location of the Internet user and the confidence level assigned to the determined geographic location of the Internet user in a second database.

78. (New) The method of claim 77, further comprising verifying that at least one of the IP address, host name, or the domain name is associated with the Internet user

79. (New) The method of claim 77, wherein determining a geographic naming information for the intermediate host comprises determining host name information for the intermediate host.

80. (New) The method of claim 77, further comprising determining a geographic address of an entity that owns the IP address, host name, or domain name.

81. (New) The method of claim 77, wherein obtaining one or more intermediate hosts of a

route comprises obtaining one or more intermediate hosts a route that connects a source to the Internet user by performing a traceroute.

82. (New) The method of claim 77, wherein determining the geographic location of the Internet user using the route, the determined geographic location of the one or more intermediate hosts, and the confidence level assigned to the determined geographic location of the one or more intermediate hosts comprises determining a city of the Internet user using the route, the determined geographic location of the one or more intermediate hosts, and the confidence level assigned to the determined geographic location of the one or more intermediate hosts.

83. (New) The method of claim 77, wherein determining the geographic location of the Internet user using the route, the determined geographic location of the one or more intermediate hosts, and the confidence level assigned to the determined geographic location of the one or more intermediate hosts comprises determining a region within a country where the Internet use is located using the route, the determined geographic location of the one or more intermediate hosts, and the confidence level assigned to the determined geographic location of the one or more intermediate hosts.